
Press Release

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The Nation's Largest Metropolitan Planning Organization Introduces a Draft Plan that Increases Transportation and Housing Options and Reduces Pollution

Los Angeles, CA – November 3, 2011 – Today, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Policy Committees' recommended the Regional Council release the Draft 2012 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) for public review and comment at its December 1, 2011 Summit.

SCAG is required by law to update the Southern California Regional Transportation Plan every four years. The 2012 draft plan differs from past plans because it includes development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy. The RTP/SCS incorporates land-use and housing policies to meet the greenhouse gas emissions targets established by the California Air Resource Board (CARB) for 2020 (8% reduction) and 2035 (13% reduction).

The draft plan presents housing and transportation options that encourage creation and revitalization of communities that are bike and pedestrian friendly, affordable and sustainable. This will result in people spending less time in their cars and thereby reducing traffic congestion and pollution and benefitting from a healthier environment.

SCAG President and Santa Monica City Council Member Pam O'Connor commented that "The 2012 RTP/SCS is a transformative plan. California has the second highest unemployment rate in the nation with 2.1 million unemployed. This plan proposes solid investment in transportation projects that aids in stimulating the economy with the creation of between 150,000 to 180,000 jobs annually. In addition, it capitalizes on Southern California's position as the nation's international trade and manufacturing center."

This proposal reflects two years of community outreach and respects local cities and counties economic and land-use inputs. The plan does not propose the redevelopment of Southern California. Instead, it focuses on multimodal transportation investments, the creation of new neighborhoods and revitalization of communities and business districts that offer choices to residents.

"Alternative B is a forward thinking regional plan that meets and exceeds the greenhouse gas emissions standards established by the California Air Resources Board. It achieves an 8-10% reduction in per capita emissions by 2020 and a 16-18% reduction by 2035," said SCAG Executive Director Hasan Ikhata.

"The draft 2012 plan will be presented to elected officials, business leaders, stakeholders, and key transportation agencies for discussion at SCAG's December 1 Summit. Public comment on the draft plan is scheduled to occur between December

2011 and March 2012. The final plan would be adopted by April 5, 2012,” O’Connor said.

To view the Draft 2012 RTP/SCS plan presented today, log onto:

<http://www.scag.ca.gov/committees/jointRCPC110311.htm>

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.